

West Valley Water District Local Groundwater Assistance Grant
ATTACHMENT 3. STATUS OF GWMP

The proposed Sentinel Well Project encompasses the entire Rialto-Colton Groundwater Basin (Basin), including a narrow fringe beyond the Basin boundaries. The State of California recognizes three basic forms of groundwater management: (1) management by local agencies under authority granted in the California Water Code or other applicable State statutes (e.g., AB3030 Plan), (2) local government groundwater ordinances or joint powers agreements, and (3) court adjudications. The Rialto-Colton Basin does not have an adopted groundwater management plan; however, groundwater within the Rialto-Colton Basin is managed through court adjudications as detailed in the 1961 Rialto Basin Decree and the *Western* Judgment. While the *Western* Judgment uses the terminology “Colton Basin Area,” the Basin is also known as the Rialto-Colton Basin.

This attachment briefly describes the geographical characteristics of the Rialto-Colton Basin and summarizes how the Basin is managed as a result of the court adjudication.

The Rialto-Colton Basin

The Rialto-Colton Basin underlies a portion of the upper Santa Ana Valley in southwestern San Bernardino County and northwestern Riverside County. This Basin is about 10 miles long and varies in width from about 3.5 miles in the northwestern part to about 1.5 miles in the southeastern part (Figure 2). The Basin is bounded by the San Gabriel Mountains in the northwest, the San Jacinto fault in the northeast, the Badlands in the southeast, and the Rialto-Colton fault in the southwest. The Santa Ana River cuts across the southeastern part of the basin. The Basin generally drains to the southeast, toward the Santa Ana River. Warm and Lytle creeks join near the southeastern boundary of the Basin and flow to meet the Santa Ana River near the center of the southeastern part of the Basin.

The principal recharge areas are Lytle Creek, Reche Canyon in the southeastern part and the Santa Ana River in the south-central part. Lesser amounts of recharge are provided by percolation of precipitation to the valley floor, underflow, and irrigation and septic returns (DWR 1970, Wildermuth 2000). Underflow occurs from fractured basement rock (DWR 1970, Wildermuth 2000) and through the San Jacinto fault in younger Santa Ana River

deposits at the south end of the Basin (Dutcher and Garrett 1958) and in the northern reaches of the San Jacinto fault system (Wildermuth 2000). Groundwater recharge has been augmented through the use of spreading basins.

Adjudication & Groundwater Management

The Rialto-Colton Basin was adjudicated as a result of the *Lytle Creek Water & Improvement Company vs. Fontana Ranchos Water Company, et al.*, San Bernardino County Superior Court Action 81264, entered on December 22, 1961 (Att3_LGA12_WestValleyWD_GWMP_2of2.pdf). As a result, the Fontana Union Water Company (FWC), City of Rialto, City of Colton, and West Valley Water District are subject to the 1961 Rialto Basin Decree. Entitlement extractions for any given water year (October 1 to September 30) are affected by groundwater elevations between March and May for three specific “index” wells (Duncan Well, Willow Street Well, and Boyd Well). Under specified conditions, groundwater extractions may be limited on an annual basis, as described below:

Water Level	Extractions
Above 1002.3 feet	Unlimited
Between 1002.3 and 969.7 feet	As imposed by the Judgment
	Reduced by 1% for every foot the average is below 969.7 to a Maximum of
Below 969.7 feet	50%

The *Western* Judgment (Western Municipal Water District of Riverside County v. East San Bernardino County Water District, Case No. 78426) (Att3_LGA12_WestValleyWD_GWMP_2of2.pdf) (filed simultaneously with the *Orange County* Judgment in April 17, 1969) requires the local state water contractor, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (Valley District), to maintain the average lowest static water levels in three index wells in the Rialto-Colton Basin Area and Riverside North Basins above 822.04 feet mean sea level (MSL). If the water levels fall below 822.04 feet MSL, the Valley District is obligated to recharge the Basin with imported water or extractions must be reduced.

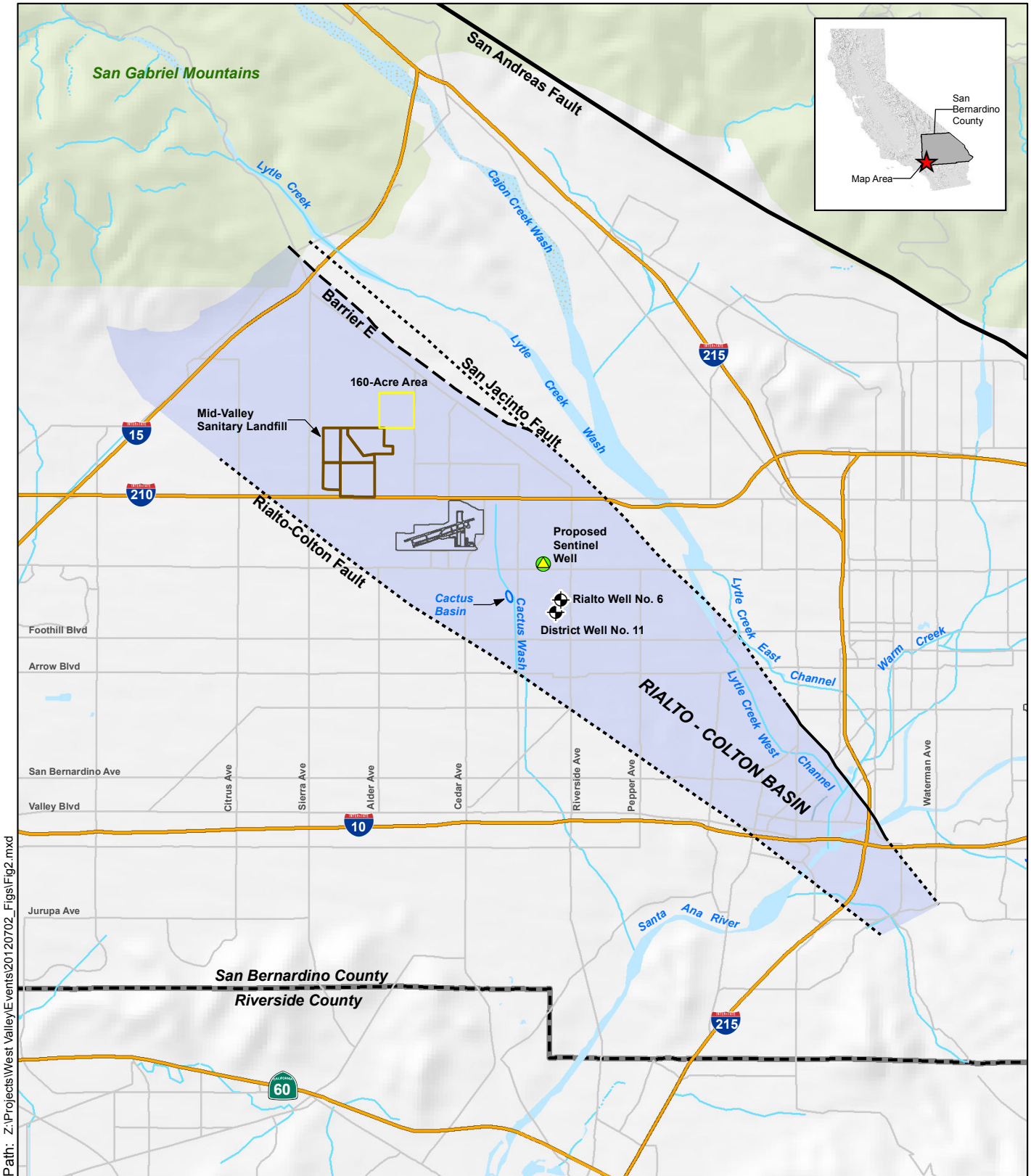
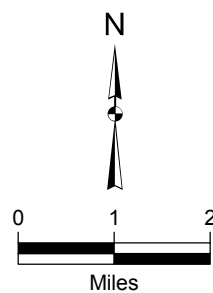
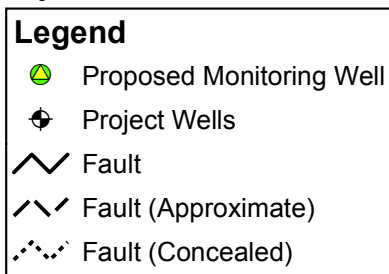


Image Source: ESRI



Kennedy/Jenks Consultants

West Valley Water District
Rialto, California

Groundwater Basin

Figure 2